

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

LIVERPOOL, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 1864.

SIR,

The Screw Steamer "LAUREL" of about 300 tons burthen, sailed from Liverpool on Sunday the 9th inst., with Captain Semmes, eight other Confederate Officers, and about one hundred men. She has six 68-pounder Guns, in cases in her hold, with Gun Carriages ready for mounting.

There is no doubt but this expedition has been fitted out for a Piratical Cruise against the United States, either in this or some other vessel. It is quite probable that there is some other vessel to which the Men and Guns are to be transferred.

The "LAUREL" cleared for Matamoras, via Havana and Nassau, but this does not indicate her destination.

Inform any United States Naval Officer who may be within your reach.

I annex a description of the "LAUREL".

I am SIR,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS H. DUDLEY,

Consul.

To the U. S.

at

To the U. S.  
at

Council

THOMAS H. DUDLEY,

Your obedient servant,

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Sir,

LIVERPOOL, 11TH OCTOBER, 1864.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

## **“LAUREL,”**

Iron built Screw Steamer, Fore and Aft Schooner, of Glasgow, 296 tons register, Captain J. F. Ramsey, for Nassau and Matamoros, H. Lafone consignee.

Length 207 feet, breadth of beam 27 feet, marked draught of water 10 feet, fore and aft; Hull black, plain stern, round stern with mouldings, name and port in yellow letters on same, 8 deadlights in port and starboard sides aft, and 7 each side forward (Boats in iron swing davits on each quarter, and one each side in her waist.)

Poop, wheel, binnacle, square box athartships, skylight, capstan, companion, iron railed and netted, a wooden rail fore part of same, main hatch, patent winch, mainmast; house over main deck, iron railed and netted round, a house built over the works of the engine, with ventilator each side, funnel, steam pipe, fore part ventilator each side, wheel and binnacle, galley and rooms underneath; middle hatch, patent winch, foremast, fore hatch, companion, ventilator, companion; rooms each side against the rails, windlass; topgallant forecastle; Bell, engraved thereon “Laurel,” 1863; Works of patent windlass, capstan, iron swing davit on port side for fish tackle, two iron stocks and anchors.

Masts and booms bright; mastheads and gaffs black; companions, skylight, houses, boats and bulwarks cream colour; funnel red, white, and black.

Built for a passenger boat to sail between Liverpool and Sligo.

